PUDUKKOTTAI STATE
NATIONAL WAR FRONT BUREAU

BULLETIN] SEPTEMBER 19, 1942 [No. 113

LECTURE CXIII.

SITUATION IN INDIA.

MR. CHURCHILL'S BLUNT SURVEY.

CRIPPS PROPOSALS SETTLED POLICY OF BRITAIN.

(*London, September 10*).

THE SPEECH.

"The course of events in India has been improving and is on the whole reassuring. The broad principles of the declaration made by the British Government, which formed the basis of the mission of the Lord Privy Seal, Sir Stafford Cripps, to India, must be taken as representing the settled policy of the British Crown and Parliament. These principles stand in their full scope and integrity. No one can add to them and no one can take anything away.

"The good offices of Sir Stafford Cripps were rejected by the Indian Congress Party. This, however, does not end the matter. The Indian Congress Party does not represent all India. It does not represent the majority of the people of India. It does not even represent the Hindu masses. It is a political organisation built around a party machine and sustained by certain manufacturing and financial interests.

FACTS TO BE REMEMBERED.

"Outside that party and fundamentally opposed to it are 90 million Muslims in British India who have their rights of self-expression, fifty million

depressed classes or untouchables as they are called, because they are supposed to defile their Hindu co-religionists by their presence or by their shadow, and ninety-five million subjects of the Princes of India with whom we are bound by treaty. In all there are 235 millions in these three large groupings alone, out of 390 millions in all India. This takes no account of the large elements among Hindus, Sikhs and Christians in British India who deplore the present policy of the Congress Party.

A REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT.

"It is necessary that these main facts should not be overlooked here or abroad, because no appreciation of the Indian problem or the relations between India and Britain is possible without recognition of these basic data.

"The Congress Party has now abandoned the policy, in many respects, of non-violence which Mr. Gandhi has so long inculcated in theory, and has come into the open as a revolutionary movement designed to paralyse communications by rail and telegraph, and generally to promote disorder, the looting of shops and sporadic attacks upon the Indian Police, accompanied from time to time by revolting atrocities—the whole having the intention, or at any rate, the effect of hampering the defence of India against the Japanese invader, who stands on the frontiers of Assam, and also upon the eastern side of the Bay of Bengal.

"It may well be that these activities by the Congress Party have been aided by Japanese Fifth Column work, on a widely extended scale, and with special direction to strategic points. It is note-worthy for instance, that the communications of the Indian forces defending Bengal on the Assam frontier have been specially attacked.

"In these circumstances, the Viceroy and the Government of India, with the unanimous support of the Viceroy's Council, the great majority of which are Indian—patriotic and wise men—have felt it necessary to proclaim and suppress the central and provincial organs of this association, which has become committed to hostile and criminal courses.

"Mr. Gandhi and other principal leaders have been interned under conditions of the highest comfort and consideration, and will be kept out of harm's way until the troubles subside.

ATTITUDE OF MARTIAL CLASSES.

"It is fortunate, indeed, that the Congress Party has no influence whatever with martial races on whom the defence of India, apart from the British forces largely depends. Many of these races are divided by unbridgeable religious gulfs from the Hindu Congress and would never consent to be ruled by them nor shall they ever be, against their will, so subjugated.

"There is no compulsory service in India, but upwards of 1,000,000 Indians have volunteered to serve the cause of the United Nations in this world struggle. The bravery of Indian troops has been distinguished in many theatres of war, and it is satisfactory to note that in these last two months when the Congress has been measuring its strength against the Government of India, over 140,000 new volunteers for the army have come forward in loyal allegiance to the King-Emperor, thus surpassiug all records in order to defend their native land.

TRIBUTES TO INDIAN SERVICES.

"So far as matters have gone up to the present they have revealed the impotence of the Congress Party either to seduce or even sway the Indian Army, to draw from their duty the enormous body of Indian officials or, still less, to stir the vast Indian masses. India is a continent almost as large and actually more populous than Europe, and divided by racial, and above all by religious differences, far deeper than any that have separated the European peoples.

"The whole administration of the Government of 390 millions who live in India is carried on by Indians, there being under 600 British members of the Indian Civil Service. All the Public Services are working. In five Provinces, including two of the greatest and comprising 110 million people, Provincial Ministers, responsible to their Legislatures, stand at their posts. In many places, both in town and country, the population has rallied to the support of the civil power.

"The Congress conspiracy against communications is breaking down. Acts of pillage and arson are being repressed, and punished with an incredibly small loss of life. Less than 500 persons have been killed over this mighty area of territory and population, and it has only been necessary to have a few brigades of British troops here and there in support of the civil power.

"In most cases the rioters have been successfully dealt with by the Indian Police. I am sure the House would wish me to pay a tribute to the loyalty and steadfastness of the brave Indian Police, as well as to the Indian official class generally, whose behaviour has been deserving of the highest praise.

PREMIER SUMS UP.

"To sum up, the outstanding fact which has so far emerged from the violent action of the Congress Party, has been its non-representative character, and powerlessness to throw into confusion the normal peaceful life of India. It is the intention of the Government to give all necessary support to the Viceroy and his executive, in the firm but tempered measures by which they are protecting the life of the Indian communities, and leaving the British and Indian armies free to defend the soil of India against the Japanese.

"I therefore, feel entitled to report to the House that the situation in India at this moment gives no occasion for undue despondency or alarm".

NATIONAL WATIONAL WAR FRONT.

VICEROY'S MESSAGE.

The Ship of State sails a stormy sea, in peril from an adverse sky, from well-armed pirates, and from hidden rocks.

But she is a staunch and well-loved ship, and her Captain calls to every man aboard for single-hearted effort.

Officers to their Posts! Men to their Stations!

No dissension on the quarter-deck: no muttering in the fo'castle!

All together! Trim the sails! Man the guns!

Slam the enemy! Steer straight for Victory!

NATIONAL WAR FRONT.

GROW MORE FOOD CAMPAIGN IN PUDUKKOTTAI.

Government Communiqué.

With a view to increase the area of cultivated land in the State the Government of Pudukkottai have issued Regulation No. XVIII of 1942. Under its provisions the owner of a patta land which is left fallow without sufficient cause is liable to a penalty, which may amount to four times the annual assessment. The Members of the Bureau of the National War Front have been charged with the special task of giving wide publicity to the Regulation, and even of enforcing it to a certain extent. One of their duties will be to look out for non-cultivated areas and report.

The Government have also issued the following Communiqué in explanation of the Regulation and its working :—

" With a view to grow more food crops in the State, the Darbar have passed a Regulation called " The Pudukkottai Uncultivated Lands (Imposition

of Penalty) Regulation No. XVIII of 1942" which enables them to impose a penal assessment on land-owners who, without reasonable cause, either do not cultivate their lands or fail to cultivate them properly and make a mere show of cultivation. Since the scope and objects of the Regulation appear to have been misunderstood in some quarters the Darbar will attempt to explain them.

2. It should be clearly understood that penal assessment will only be imposed when it is obvious that the land-owner is at fault. Should the failure to cultivate be due, for example, to lack of water, the owner will not be penalised, but remission will be granted as usual in accordance with the terms of the settlement, if the circumstances justify it.

3. If non-cultivation is due to disputes between land-lords and tenants, the officers of the Revenue Department will endeavour to settle such disputes. If such attempts prove fruitless (and action will not be left till it is too late to cultivate) the officers will make every endeavour to induce the tenants or other labourers to cultivate the land, and if this can be done the land will at once be taken over by the Goverment, and handed over to the cultivator for cultivation. The land-owner will be liable to penal assessment, but will be entitled to a fair share of the crop after that has been met.

4. The Regulation applies to Inam as well as to ayan lands.

5. The officers of the Revenue Department will prepare lists of tanks in the ayacuts of which there are large areas of uncultivated lands, and deal with the cases systematically. The members of the National War Front must be vigilant to assist the Revenue officials in enforcing the Regulation, looking out for areas wilfully left uncultivated and reporting them to the Revenue officials.

6. The object of the Regulation is to obtain the maximum cultivated area, in the interests of the State subjects as a whole—so as to combat scarcity and rising prices. Land-owners must be regarded as trustees for Society, and the object of the Regulation is to secure that they do not fail to fulfil their obligations as such owing to indifference, laziness or any other cause.

7. The Darbar in conclusion express the hope that all land-owners in the State will cultivate all their lands properly and in the proper season, and produce as much food crops as possible, and that it may not be necessary to resort to the provisions of the Regulation in order to compel them to do so. The Dewan Peishkar has been informed that it is the Darbar's wish that the Regulation should be enforced in as few cases as possible."

WEEKLY WAR SUMMARY.

12—9—42 to 18—9—42.

Russia.—NOVOROSSISK at the Black Sea end of the CAUCASUS fell during the week and the enemy has been pushing towards TUAPSE, the remaining Black Sea port.

In the MOZDOK area, the Germans have not made any progress; here the first snows are falling and the Soviet resistance is stubborn.

In the SINYAVINO sector, south of Lake Ladoga tho Nazis have suffered a defeat.

A German attempt to regain VORONEJ has ended in a repulse.

The Russians are heavily attacking RZHEV.

Soviet planes carried out a landing on the Barents Sea coast.

STALINGRAD has become a 'Red Verdun'. The Soviet defenders with their backs to the Volga are defending the city for all they are worth. The city is most difficult to take, as it sprawls 25 miles along the Volga in a hilly region. Since it cannot be stormed, Von Bock's order is to take it 'yard by yard.' The Nazi pressure is heaviest from west, south-west and north-west. The Volga across which supplies and reinforcements enter the city is heavily attacked. Though out-numbered the Russian airmen are in their turn bombing German supply columns at KALACH across the Don.

The following account of the battle is given by the VICHY radio:—'Soviet resistance at STALINGRAD is by no means broken. The nearer the Germans come to their objective, the more difficult is their task. Fighting is going on in the residential and industrial quarters. The ground leading to the Volga is hilly and intersected by narrow valleys, from which Russian armoured columns emerge to deal deadly surprise blows—Soviet reinforcements are streaming across the river over pontoon bridges. These are constantly destroyed by bombs and as quickly repaired. Soviet artillery, which remains very powerful is extremely well camouflaged. The Soviet air forces massed east of the Volga are providing strong support for the defenders.'

Madagascar.—The British occupied DIEGO SUAREZ, a point at the northern tip of the island in May last to guard the supply route of the United Nations to INDIA and the MIDDLE EAST. It was expected that the military operations then undertaken would prevent further Axis

mischief, but as the hopes were belied, there was nothing left but for BRITAIN, with the full knowledge of the U. S. to resume operations. A naval attack was accordingly launched on September 11 on the ports of MAJUNGA, AMBANJA and MORONDAVA. The mainland force marching out of DIEGO SUAREZ overland to AMBANJA has reached BEUCH, and occupied MACVATANANA. South African troops have captured the island of NOSI BE and VOHEMAR. The French and native troops on the island have no heart for the fight.

The Pacific.—1. NEW GUINEA: As the result of a heavy infiltration attack the enemy outflanked the Allied positions at MYOLA and EFOGI and negotiated the 'gap' in the Owen Stanley Range. He is now within 44 miles from MORESBY as the crow flies. The Allies raided BUNA and GIZO.

2. **The Solomons.**—The Japanese made desperate efforts to regain possession of the American-occupied GUADALCANAR—TULAGI area. On the night of September 12, they brought naval units to GUADALCANAR and shelled shore installations. U. S. marine batteries replied and hit one of the attacking ships. Since then, American positions have been continually bombarded from the sea and the air. Though the Japanese succeeded in landing small parties of reinforcements the U. S. marines continue to hold their positions. The air attacks were on a large scale. The enemy lost at least 22 bombers in these operations.

3. **The Aleutians.**—At KISKA, in the far north. American fighters straddled Japanese shipping and troops at KISKA Island. A Japanese flying-boat and a fighter were destroyed

4. **The Pacific Situation**—Returning to WASHINGTON from the Pacific area Rear Admiral W. H. B. Blandy declared, 'United States forces were now holding the balance of the striking power in the Western Pacific. I think we are in a position to hold the Japanese in the Pacific.' General Sir Thomas Blamey, Commander of the Allied Land Forces in AUSTRALIA who has just returned from a visit to NEW GUINEA states, 'The commanders of the NEW GUINEA forces, down to the men themselves, are confident that the Japanese will be unable to take Port MORESBY.'

Egypt.—The lull continues, broken by occasional patrol activities, air duels and artillery exchanges. On the night of September 13—14 British naval forces and a small Army Force in conjunction with the Air Force carried out a sea-borne raid on TOBRUK, the objectives being administrative installations, ships and stores.

SOLLUM, BENGHAZI, MERSA MATRUH, DABA, and SUDA BAY (CRETE) were raided.

R. A. F.—The R. A. F. raided BREMEN and WILHELMSHAVEN ABBEVILLE and CHERBOURG and the Soviet Air Force attacked KOENIGSBURG, BUCHAREST and PLOESTI. PLOESTI is the centre of the oil-fields in RUMANIA.

China.—The Chinese recaptured KUFENG and WUYI and were closing in on KINHWA. Japanese attacks on north-east of LANCHI were repulsed.

Burma.—Rivercraft in the vicinity of MANDALAY, the aerodromes at MYITKYINA and the stores and workshops at YENANGYAUNG were bombed.

Miscellaneous.—1. Mr. C. R. Attlee, Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for the Dominion Affairs has arrived in NEWFOUNDLAND on a short visit and will thence proceed to OTTAWA.

2. A mass slaughter has started in the WARSAW Ghetto. 7,000 persons were led out of the Ghetto ostensibly for deportation but actually for execution. The number of Jews murdered upto May was 700,000. Jews are herded together for the purpose of execution and mown down by machine-guns or gassed. It is also stated that thousands wait for their turn as only a thousand can be gassed in a day at a centre. In CHELMNO 40,000 were gassed in 50 days. Referring to these horrible incidents, Mr. Herbert Morrison, the British Home Secretary said, 'It is said that before the end of this year GERMANY will deliver her peace ultimatum. The United Nations will accept no peace offer from Hitler, unless it were a promise of a collective suicide pact by the whole German leadership.'

ALLIED Air Raids over ENEMY and ENEMY-occupied COUNTRIES.

Date.	Targets.	Damage caused by air bombardment.	Aircraft losses for Allies.	Aircraft losses for Enemies.
7—9—42. (Monday).				
	GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE.			
	No information available.			
	EGYPT and LIBYA.			
	Air combats over the battle field.		1 plane.	6 planes.
	Air combats over the Delta area.			3 planes.
	Enemy tanks and other vehicles in the battle area.			

ALLIED Air Raids over ENEMY and ENEMY-occupied COUNTRIES—*cont.*

Date. Targets.	Damage caused by air bombardment.	Aircraft losses for Allies.	Aircraft losses for Enemies.
7—9—42 (Monday)—cont.			
MEDITERRANEAN.			
Enemy shipping in Eastean-MEDITERRANEAN.	A tanker and a merchant man hit.		
RUSSIA.			
Air combats and grounded aircraft along the whole Russian Front.			
FAR EAST			
NORMANBY Islands.			
Two enemy warships off the ISLAND.	A destroyer damaged.		
TOBRIAND Island.			
Enemy warships off the ISLAND.			
NEW GUINEA.			
Enemy positions in the KOKODA area.			
Beached barges at BUNA.			
8—9—42 (Tuesday).			
GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE.			
NIGHT :—			
Military and Industrial objectives in the RHINELAND. **An important river port and a vital railway centre** at FRANKFURT. **Offensive patrols over the enemy aerodromes and railway objectives** in occupied territory.		12 planes.	
EGYPT and LIBYA.			
TOBRUK.			
Axis tanks and other motorised vehicles in the battle area.			
RUSSIA.			
Air combats along the entire front.			

Date. Targets.	Damage caused by air bombardment.	Aircraft losses for Allies	Aircraft losses for Enemies
FAR EAST.			
BURMA.			
The port of AKYAB.			
SOLOMONS.			
GISO Island.			1 plane.
9—9—42 (Wednesday)			
BRITAIN.			
GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE.			
Berlin.			
BUDAPEST.			
An enemy convoy off the DUTCH coast.	1 ship hit.		
KOENIGSBURG.			
EGYPT and LIBYA.			
Lorries on the SIDI BARRANI—MERSA MATRUH road.			
Small coastal vessels off SIDI BARRANI.	Vessels hit.		
Air combats over LIBYA.			1 plane.
SICILY.			
Air combats over SICILY.			2 planes.
RUSSIA.			
Air combats and grounded aircraft along the whole Russian Front.			
FAR EAST.			
NEW GUINEA.			
Reconnaissance over LAE and SALAMAUA.			
Enemy positions on the KOKODA Front.			
10—9—42 (Thursday).			
GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE.			
NIGHT :—			
DUSSELDORF.	Very heavily damaged.		
Other towns in western GERMANY. **Offensive patrols** over the enemy occupied territory.		31 planes.	

ALLIED Air Raids over ENEMY and ENEMY-occupied COUNTRIES—*cont.*

Date. Targets.	Damage caused by air bombardment.	Aircraft losses for Allies.	Aircraft losses for Enemies.
10—9—42 (Thursday)—cont.			
EGYPT and LIBYA.			
Enemy shipping off the AFRICAN coast.			
Landing grounds behind the enemy's lines.			
RUSSIA.			
Air combats and aircraft on the aerodromes along the entire Eastern Front.			
FAR EAST.			
BURMA.			
An enemy supply ship and its escort in AKYAB harbour.	Both ships hit.	4 planes.	
NEW GUINEA.			
Enemy positions in the KOKODA area.			
11—9—42 (Friday).			
GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE.			
NIGHT:—			
Laying mines in enemy coastal waters.			
EGYPT and LIBYA.			2 planes.
Air combats over the battle area.	Many more planes damaged.		
The harbour and shipping at TOBRUK.			
Repair shops ond railway sidings at MERSA MATRUH.			
CRETE.			
Shipping in SUDABAY.			
RUSSIA.			
Air combat. along the whole front.			
FAR EAST.			
NEW GUINEA.			
The aerodrome at BUNA.	Very heavily damaged.	1 plane.	
Enemy positions in the KOKODA area.			

Date Targets.	Damage caused by air bombardment	Aircraft losses for Allies.	Aircraft losses for Enemies
NEW IRELAND.			
An enemy mine-laying vessel off KAVIENG.			
South-West PACIFIC.			
Reconnaissance over North-west sector.			
12—9—42 (Saturday).			
GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE.			
NIGHT:—			
Laying mines in enemy waters.			
Offensive patrols over occupied territory.			
LIBYA and EGYPT.			
Landing grounds east of MERSA MATRUH TOBRUK.	Big fire started.		
Enemy tanks, guns and ammunition dumps in the battle area.			
Air combats over the battle area.	Many more damaged.		1 plane.
RUSSIA.			
Air combats and aircraft on the aerodromes along the entire Russian front.			
FAR EAST.			
NEW GUINEA.			
Enemy positions in the KOKODA area.			
The aerodrome at BUNA.			
CHINA.			
KUFANG.			
13—9—42 (Sunday).			
GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE.			
NIGHT:—			
BREMEN.			
Other targets in North-west GERMANY.			
Intruder patrols over Northern FRANCE and HOLLAND.			

ALLIED Air Raids over ENEMY and ENEMY-occupied COUNTRIES—*cont.*

Date. Targets.	Damage caused by air bombardment.	Aircraft losses fo Allies	Enemies
13—9—42 (Sunday)—cont.			
KONEIGSBURG (in Germany).			
BUCHAREST and other **towns** (RUMANIA).			
The oil fields at PLOESTI (RUMANIA).			
LIBYA.			
The harbour and shipping at TOBRUK.			
Aerodromes in the DABA **area.**			
Enemy tanks and other armoured cars in the battle area.			
Air combats over the entire battle area.			
RUSSIA.			
Air combats and grounded aircraft along the whole Eastern Front.			
FAR EAST.			
Reconnaissence over South-western and North-western sectors.			

ENEMY Air Raids over Allied Territories.

Date. Targets.	Damage caused by air bombardment.	Aircraft losses or Enemies	Allies
8—9—42 (Tuesday).			
BRITAIN.			
NIGHT :—			
No information available.			**12 planes.**
RUSSIA.			
STALINGRAD.			
NOVOROSSISK.			
FAR EAST—NEW GUINEA.			
Port MORESBY.		**1 plane.**	
9—9—42 (Wednesday).			
BRITAIN.			
DAY :—			
THAMES ESTUARY.			
NIGHT :—			
Very slight activity.			
RUSSIA.			
STALINGRAD.			

ENEMY Air Raids over Allied Territories—*cont.*

Date. Targets.	Damage caused by air bombardment.	Aircraft losses for Enemies
10—9—42 (Thursday).		
BRITAIN.		
No air activity at all.		
RUSSIA.		
STALINGRAD.		
FAR EAST—SOLOMON.		
GUDALCANAR.		
11—9—42 (Friday).		
BRITAIN.		
NIGHT :—		
A few places over the South and South-East ENGLAND.	Slight damage.	
RUSSIA		
STALINGRAD.		
Barges and cargo ships on the VOLGA River.		
FAR EAST—SOLOMONS.		
GUDALCANAR.		
12—9—42 (Saturday).		
BRITAIN.		
No air activity.		
RUSSIA.		
STALINGRAD.		
FAR EAST—SOLOMONS.		
GUDALCANAR.		
13—9—42 (Sunday).		
BRITAIN.		
No air activity.		
MEDITERRANEAN.		
Reconnaissance over MALTA.		
RUSSIA.		
STALINGRAD.		
River barges on the VOLGA River.		
14—9—42 (Monday).		
BRITAIN.		
No air activity either during daylight or night.		
RUSSIA.		
STALINGRAD.		
Russian defences around STALINGRAD.		
FAR EAST—SOLOMONS.		
GUDALCANAR.		

SIDE LIGHTS.

POLITICS AND WAR. 'It is not politicians intent on domestic issues and quarrels; it is not undisciplined school boys; it is certainly not irresponsible mischief-makers and gangs of hooligans that will save INDIA'—so said General Wavell in a thoughtful broadcast on the day of the third anniversary of the war. While it is certainly not a compliment to the politicians to be clubbed with hooligans, nor to school boys either, the indictment discloses a state of affairs which makes one seriously to pause and reflect. At a time of peril, when INDIA is faced with the task of survival, it is certainly tragic that arm-chair politicians should debate on forms of Government, that looting should be the argument employed and that school boys should decide their country's fate by breaking windows. On the day that Wavell spoke President Roosevelt also addressed the youth of the world, demanding their service, but he spoke not to the breakers of windows but to the disciplined youths who had already either joined the fighting ranks or were preparing to do so—the young men on whom the patriotic task of their country's defence had devolved or was about to.

Hooliganism, which even in peace-time, under any orderly form of Government, will receive short shrift, will, in war time, be nipped in the bud. But while it has lasted it has proved damaging enough. Though not on the scale of CHAURI CHAURRA, the Himalayan Crime of 1922 has been repeated, and incidents no less hideous, as numerous and even more wide-spread have been perpetrated—police men burnt alive, magistrates murdered and innocent folk, including two Canadian air men, done to death. Is Swaraj or independence, or whatever it is, to be gained by burning policemen? Is brickbat throwing the way to Self-Government? The interruption to railway communications has already hit back, like a boomerang, by holding up the transport of food to certain areas, and leading to the starvation of millions.

Mr. Churchill's statement in the House of Commons on Saturday (re-printed in another part of the Bulletin) shows how the Congress Party is responsible for all this mischief. Its activities have had the effect, if not the intention, of hampering the defence of INDIA. 'It may well be,' said the Premier, 'that these activities have been aided by Japanese fifth column work on a widely extended scale'.

In further explanation of the Premier's charges Mr. Amery, in the course of the explanatory debate that followed the Premier's statement, revealed how the Government of Madras had come across certain instructions issued by the Provincial Congress Committee to induce Government officers to resign, workmen to strike, and people generally to picket shops, to stop trains, to

travel without tickets and to cut telegraph and telephone wires. The mischief was to be concentrated on certain forms of sabotage and directed to certain areas. For instance, the destructive work was to be concentrated on railway communications, railway stations, rolling-stock, aerodromes, bridges, roads, signalling and control instruments. The area of damage was chiefly the strategic zone dividing Eastern INDIA from the rest of the country, as well as the coal transport area from mine to factory. 300 railway stations have been attacked. In BIHAR 65 police stations have been damaged aud 40 destroyed.

It is a relief to turn from these gruesome details to the Premier's assurance that the situation was improving, that 'the Congress conspiracy against communications was breaking down, and that acts of pillage and arson were being repressed and punished.'

It is fortunate, as the Premier added, that the martial races of INDIA were not affected by the movement. In the two months, when the Congress measured its strength against the Government, Indian recruiting reached the peak figure of 140,000.

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MADAGASCAR. Vichy's treachery has necessitated further military operations in MADAGASCAR which lies on the route of vital supplies to INDIA and the MIDDLE-EAST. Last year, as may be remembered, DIEGO SUAREZ at the northern tip of the island was occupied in order to forestall Axis mischief. Apparently, it was then thought that the measures so far taken would suffice to bring the Vichy Administration to terms—but subsequent events have shown that it was not so easy. It is now revealed that the Japanese aircraft have since been allowed to reconnoitre the island, and Japanese submarines have been replenished from the island bases. Two Japanese officers landed from a submarine were captured not far from DIEGO SUAREZ. German secret agents have also arrived and were given assistance by the local French Government under orders from Vichy. Unidentified planes have flown over DURBAN and ships have been sunk in the Indian Ocean, evidently by submarines based on MADAGASCAR.

Persuasion having failed, there was nothing to do but to take further action. Military operations have now been started directed initially against the MADAGASCAR ports in the MOZAMBIQUE channel. Of the places mentioned as having been captured or attacked during the week are MAJUNGA, which with its air-fields lies at the narrowest point of the Channel opposite Portuguese MOZAMBIQUE, MORANDAVA which is about a thousand miles from DURBAN and AMBAJA, a supply base to the neighbouring COMORO ISLANDS, which also have air-bases.

THE MIDDLE-EAST. It was in the summer of 1940 that GERMANY flushed with her initial success began her intrigues in the MIDDLE-EAST. The plan was that while ITALY attacked EGYPT both from LIBYA and ABYSSINIA, GERMANY should advance, through TURKEY, to PALESTINE and IRAQ. To further this plan, in 1941, Rashid Ali was encouraged to revolt, Vichy was made to resist in SYRIA and the fifth column under Fritz Grobba started work in IRAN. But both the Italian invasion and the German machinations failed. The Italian attempt ended in the restoration of the Abyssinian Empire to the Negus, the traitor of IRAQ was expelled; TURKEY has been bound by an alliance; SYRIA has been wrested and the 2,000 German agents in IRAN have been driven out. In addition, EGYPT has promised every co-operation. SAUDI ARABIA has expelled the Italian Legation. To-day the whole of the MIDDLE-EAST has been saved from disintegrating and mischievous elements, and evinces staunch alliance and friendship to the Allied cause.

From Wendell Willkie's recent statement it is clear that Rommel's latest offensive was not a mere reconnaissance, as German propaganda now chooses to describe it, but a full-blooded attempt to break through to ALEXANDRIA. For mere reconnaissance it is not usual to employ one's whole armoured force or fight a two day battle.

Mr. Wendell Willkie's tour of the MIDDLE-EAST, as President Roosevelt's personal envoy is a guarantee of AMERICA's determination to play its rôle in the defence of the MIDDLE-EAST.

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JAPAN'S DISILLUSIONMENT. The *Karikai Shimbun* wrote recently : 'It was a mistake to assume that JAPAN's victories in greater East ASIA will compel the collapse of CHUNGKING. JAPAN is now learning the bitter lesson that JAPAN cannot possibly conquer the whole of CHINA. Her strategy of late has therefore been only to occupy key roads, railways, and river-ways, and to exploit limited areas of strategic value. This explains the struggle for the CHEKIANG–KIANGSI railway. The Japanese aim was also to seize the rich rice fields if she can. Hence the attack on HUPEH. Since TOKYO was bombed her anxiety has also been to secure possession of the CHEKIANG air-fields.

With such objects in view did the Japanese turn to CHINA in May, on the completion of the invasion of BURMA. With their planes over KIANGSI, CHEKIANG and FUKIEN, and a force of some 30,000 men landed at HENCHOW they hoped for an easy victory. They launched an attack on KINHWA, the capital of CHEKIANG, they landed forces for an attack on NAUNCHANG, and FOOCHOW, KINHWA, LANCHI (an important industrial centre) and CHUHSIAN (Bomb-TOKYO Base) also fell one after another.

But soon it became apparent that these places though taken for the time being could not be held. Chinese guerillas made them unsafe. Captured places also changed hands. Meanwhile the drive for FOOCHOW fizzled out. A similar fate overtook the drive for WENCHOW. CHUHSIAN was retaken. The enemy could find nowhere to form a base and carry on positional warfare.

In these operations the U. S. air force played a conspicuous part. This, together with AMERICA's increasing supplies and BRITAIN's financial and other aid, and with the Allied preparations from the Indian front to reconquer BURMA and reopen the BURMA Road, have made CHINA feel stronger and more confident than ever to carry on the struggle.

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THE SPIRIT OF LUXEMBURG. Sandwiched between BELGIUM and GERMANY, the grand Duchy of LUXEMBURG, the tiniest state of EUROPE, has challenged the conqueror. It was the first victim of Nazi occupation in the last war but at the end of it emerged independent and unscathed. Now Hitler, seeking to wipe it from the map of EUROPE, has issued an announcement incorporating it with the Reich, and conscripting all young Luxemburghers into the German army. A general strike has followed, and a state of emergency has been proclaimed. Small in size, LUXEMBURG is one of the largest steel-producing countries of the world.

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THE SUBMARINE WAR. The Nazis themselves admit a decline in their U-boat offensive. *The Berliner Lokal Anzeiger* confesses that the struggle between the attacking U-boats and defending ships is growing fiercer. This success in the Battle of the Convoys is reflected in the claims put out by the BERLIN radios themselves of shipping losses of the United Nations—their figures are May 924,000 tons, June 886,000 tons, July 815,000 tons, and August 808,000 tons. The figures, exaggerated, no doubt, still show a progressive decline in the sinkings.

In July U. S. Shipyards alone turned out 71 ships (total—790,000 tons), or two vessels of 10,000 each daily—nearly enough to replace the August losses, even as given by the Nazi radios.

Mr. A. V. Alexander has stated 'July and August this year have been the most successful months of the war for the numbers of U-boats killed. New methods have been developed and new devices are in action'.

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WAR FINANCE. In war the economic front, though not spectacular, is as important as the military, and not the least of the achievements necessitated by the war is the way in which

Britain has built up her finance. In asking for a vote of credit on the 9th Sir Kingsley Wood, the Chancellor of the Exchequer revealed that during the three years the war had cost £ 10,000 million and the daily expenditure had increased from £ 8 million to £ 12 million. The increase was due to an increase in munitions production. The wonder of it was that two-thirds of all this money had come from taxation and savings. Taxation yielded 40% of the total, and savings brought £ 4,200 million. Pointing out the necessity for further reduction in personal expenditure the Chancellor concluded; 'We have been able hitherto to finance the war on sound lines, and if we proceed with equal circumspection in future and continue to husband our financial strength we can face the task before us with confidence.'

In the United States the conversion of the national economy from peace to war conditions has proved not so easy, and the Americans so long accustomed to a luxurious standard find themselves suddenly called upon to live a hard life. But in order to secure financial stability they also must forego many comforts. President Roosevelt has issued a seven-point programme providing for control of profits, wages and prices as the first steps to avoid inflation.

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LEASE-LEND IN THE REVERSE. To those who think that under the Lease-Lend the U. S. alone lends and BRITAIN always borrows without reciprocal help to U. S. the following extract from the 'Atlantic Monthly' of August, 1942, will be instructive. It says, 'the shipping aid given to AMERICA has been substantial. British corvettes and trawlers are on active service off our Eastern Seaboard, in helping us fight the U-boats. They have returned bombers for the same purpose. They have likewise sent over destroyers. On the Pacific coast the balloon barrages came from BRITAIN, complete with technicians; among the devices which have been lease-lent to AMERICA is the famous British radio location instrument, the instrument that beat off the German night bomber'. In his book, 'Prelude to Victory' James R. Beston asks 'How many people in this country (AMERICA) know to-day that just as we rushed guns to BRITAIN at the time of the collapse of FRANCE, so the British rushed anti-aircraft guns to PANAMA to help in the defence of the canal right after the disaster at PEARL HARBOUR.'

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AXIS PROPAGANDA. The Axis partners vie with one another in the secret radio stations from which they send out their lying propaganda. While the pretension is that the news comes from the outside as a matter of fact it is manufactured in the Axis countries themselves. Thus GERMANY has her 'Free British' stations whose propaganda is the object of ridicule in BRITAIN. She has also the 'Azad Hind'

intended for Indian consumption. ITALY has her 'Free Arab' and 'Free INDIA' (Himalaya) stations ,while JAPAN, in addition to her agents at SAIGON and BANGKOK, owns also other secret stations for pouring out daily and hourly her venom of lies.

Speaking of INDIA in particular these propaganda have the ultimate object of keeping the people and the Government apart and of interfering with the Indian defences. Specific incitements to violence have been made. The best corrective to such mischief is a clear understanding of the motive behind.

The Axis stations situated thousands of miles away from INDIA cannot possibly know what is exactly taking place here, except through the broadcasts from DELHI and LONDON. What the enemy stations do is to pick up a fact or two, and twist and distort them into lies which are then put out as if known only to the Axis. Any additional information they set out to give is pure invention, and there is evidence that for this purpose the manufacture of lies is conducted on a large scale. Instructions for this are regularly issued from BERLIN and TOKYO. As announced in a TOKYO broadcast on July 28, a Central Training Club for propaganda has been set up in NANKING, and as BERLIN blurted out on August 2 'talks' are specifically given by 'Indians in the pay of JAPAN' and other Axis countries.

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HIGH FEVER. SIAM is now in a sad plight, indeed. Time was when it boasted of its freedom, and talked of defence to the death. But yet within a few hours of JAPAN's invasion she surrendered without striking a blow for freedom, and now finds herself lost in JAPAN's 'co-prosperity'. All her cotton is exported to JAPAN and her food is rationed. SIAM, the home of rice, now suffers from shortage of that commodity. In a recent broadcast, the BANGKOK radio lamented. 'If conditions continue like this our stocks will be exhausted. Thais will die of starvation—We must not laugh things off. At present the fever of the Thais is 103 degrees; we have only a few more degrees to go.

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A FLAGRANT LIE. One of the lies manufactured in BERLIN in Hindustani is that the Government of INDIA have refused transport facilities to Muslims for their pilgrimage to MECCA. The lie is brazen-faced as the following communiqué of the Government will show. "There are no restrictions this year on the issue of pilgrim passes for IRAQ or the HAJAS *via* IRAQ. Pilgrims to HAJAS *via* IRAQ are, however, advised, in view of the bad condition of the NEJAF-MEDINA route, which resulted in hardship to a number of pilgrims last year, to follow some other route.'

INDIAN PARACHUTES AND PARACHUTISTS. It is interesting to note the rapid advance that the Parachute industry has made in INDIA, and the fillip it has given to Parachute training. Mr. Leslie Irwin, the inventor of the R. A. F. parachute came over to INDIA to start the first factory. Every parachute is carefully tested before use. The Indian product has been certified as comparing 'most favourably' with the product of the British factories.

Simultaneously, the training of Indian parachutists has also received considerable impetus and produced good results.

THE DEFENCES OF CYPRUS

FORTRESS IN PATH OF THE AXIS.

London Times.

The territory of Cyprus is about as large as Norfolk and Suffolk combined, and the island is the most advanced British outpost in the Middle East against an Axis invasion of Asia. If an attack comes in this quarter, Cyprus will be in the front line.

According to reliable reports the Turks are now confident that they will be able to preserve their neutrality. In that case, if the Germans have any designs against the British positions in the Middle East, they will be obliged to by-pass Turkey and to go straight for Syria, making Cyprus the first jump. An invasion, in this case, will necessarily be made by air and sea, as in Crete. Cyprus, however, can honestly flatter itself that it would be a much tougher proposition. **In the first place the advantages which the Germans possessed in Crete of being able to send over troop carriers and bombers with fighter escorts against an enemy who could not command fighters would this time be transferred to the defenders.**

REINFORCEMENTS AT HAND.

Cyprus is 300 miles from Rhodes and 250 miles from Castellorizo, the nearest Axis aerodromes. German aircraft as they approached the island would be exposed to attacks by British fighters based on aerodromes in Cyprus, while reinforcements would be only 150 miles away in Syria. **The German dive-bombers which proved so devastating to the defence of Crete would be able to reach Cyprus only with a small load of bombs, and would have to discharge them immediately against a predetermined objective, instead of searching out targets as they did in Crete.**

In the second place, Cyprus is infinitely better prepared to face an attack than was Crete a year ago. The garrison has made good use of the respite given it since the Crete episode, in turning to account the lessons learned there and at Tobruk about the best ways of defending a relatively small area against simultaneous air and land attacks. The first thing that strikes one on visiting the island is that little is to be seen of the defence works, with the exception of the obstacles which have been contrived to prevent hostile aircraft from landing on flat, open ground. These obstacles are everywhere, but one has to look hard to discover the barbed wire, pillboxes, and gun positions; they are there all right, but are so well camouflaged that one may walk right into the middle of a defended area without knowing it.

The troops garrisoning the island are drawn partly from Great Britain and partly from India, not to mention the Cypriot units which are represented in several arms. I found a battalion of a certain south country regiment sampling the pleasures of Cyprus village life and wondering whether they were there for nothing.

VILLAGERS KEPT BUSY.

The troops are all delighted with their surroundings, for Cyprus in spring-time is a little paradise, with its fields gay with wild flowers and its valleys clothed with tender green. **Moslem regiments from India find themselves among their co-religionists, for something like one-fifth of the Cypriot population is Moslem.**

A tremendous amount of work has been done in Cyprus during the past year. Apart from an intricate subterranean honeycomb of defence sectors, many new landing-grounds for aircraft have been laid out and enormous improvements effected in communications. This has given work to tens of thousands of villagers, and has thus compensated for the partial stagnation of trade and the closing down of some of the mines. **On the whole the island is awaiting events with sturdy faith in the future, and a determination, if the war comes this way, to emulate the toughness and heroism of Malta.**

BRITAIN IN WAR TIME.

by

Phyllis Bentley.

(The Madras War Review).

War, which used to be a matter of hired armies in the field, has now become the prime concern of the whole common people, and so I make no apology for speaking of Britain's three years of war personally, as one of the

common people dwelling in that front-line fortress of the present war—the British Isles.

We went to war in September 1939, from a deep sense of duty, because we knew we must. We were not attacked, and there were plenty of indications that we could have had good terms from Hitler—good, rich blackmail terms —if we stayed out.

But we did not stay out.

The British Commonwealth was the first to declare war on Hitler without being attacked by him, and we have been in the war all the time.

The Navy has fought, and is fighting, in the Atlantic, Pacific Mediterranean, North Sea, Arctic, the Persian and Arabian Gulfs, and the Indian Ocean. They convoy food to feed 45,000,000 British people; they convoy food and munitions right through "Italy's" sea to Malta; they convoy troops right round Africa to the Middle East, and across the Atlantic from Canada and the United States of America to Britain; they convoy munitions, planes, tanks, guns, railway engines, waggons, cloth and boots north through that dangerous, dark, icy route to Russia.

At any given moment—now while you are reading this—600 British naval vessels are at sea. More than 6,250,000 tons of Axis shipping were sunks damaged or captured by the Royal Navy up to the end of June 1941. The Convoys, that the navy escorts are composed of merchant ships, and, what with keeping in line and keeping course, and Axis submarines, mines and aircraft, it is no light task sailing in a merchant ship to-day. Yet they keep on doing it.

THE TWELFTH FRONT.

Meanwhile, what has the Army raised in Britain done? Nobody is more eager for a second front (at the right time and place) than I am, but I wish people would give it its proper name and call it the twelfth—which in fact it will be. That our Army has had help—and splendid help—from other parts of the British Commonwealth and our friends elsewhere, we gratefully acknowledge.

I do not think anybody is in much doubt about the contribution of the Royal Air Force. We have seen the tide of bombers stemmed and held and turned—there will be waves over us again, no doubt, but never again as heavy as those which we can send over the enemy. Our 1,000-bomber raids, our 175,000 fire bombs on Hamburg in 35 minutes, are too well known to need description, but the fact which reveals the sustained attack continually pouring forth from these islands is that 7,892 separate attacks were delivered by the Royal Air Force on land targets up to the end of July 1942.

In June 1942 Britain was turning out more munitions per head than any other country in the world. In June 1942 we were producing ammunition for big guns at the rate of 25,000,000 rounds a year, and for small arms at the rate of 2,000,000,000 rounds a year. More than one of our factories to-day turn out a finished plane every two hours. It was not only our lads in light blue who defeated the *Luftwaffe* in September 1940, but the excellence of our planes and engines. Ships, planes, tanks, mines, bombs, we have made more, more and more, with less and less man-power to make them, as our men poured into the armed forces.

HARD YEARS.

Three long, hard years of increasing production every day. Do not think they have been easy, those three years. Long hours; surrendered ambitions; unfamiliar work—they are not easy. The heaviest taxation a free people ever subjected itself to—that is not much fun. A single person earning £500 a year pays £156 in income-tax; if he earns £1,000, he pays £381 in taxes. And you haven't finished then. There are taxes on tea, beer, cigarettes, there are heavy taxes on "luxury" goods which used to be ordinary necessities. On a woman's hat, for instance, you pay purchase tax amounting to two-thirds of its wholesale value. No! Taxes in Britain aren't much fun.

The food-ration system, though it is just and efficient and works extremely well, is not much fun; the housewife's buying in is a continual mathematical Problem. No! Conscription, black-out, air-raids, fire-watching, Home Guard national service, long hours, few holidays, food rationing, clothing rationing, business concentration, petrol rationing, taxes, war savings, salvage—and always the Germans 21 miles away and the radio announcer saying "The next of kin have been informed"—No! none of that is a joke.

DEMAND FOR YET ANOTHER FRONT.

But are we tired? Does our resolution weaken? Do you hear us saying "We've had enough of our 11 fronts and would like to reduce the number"?

On the contrary, production steadily rises—rises—and the strongest demand all over Britain to-day is for yet another front. We hold mass meetings; we fill our papers with talk of the coming offensive in Europe; travel in any bus or train in the British Isles to-day, and before your journey's end you will hear a couple of arguments about it. Arguments? Yes—on how soon we can begin. Every citizen in these islands is clamouring to fight and work harder than he has ever done before.

For who makes all this possible? Who held this front-line fortified point for a year pretty well alone? Who fights the wide world over in Navy, Army, Royal Air Force? Who "backs them up" in the women's services, A.T.S.

W.A.A.F.S., W.R.N.S.? Who are those nearly two millions in the Home Guard sworn to defend their homes against invasion? Who, when bombs dropped and fires soared, rescued the trapped, put out the fires, and went to work the next day as usual? Who makes the ships, planes, tanks, mines, bombs and guns? Who put 6,000,000 extra acres under the plough during three years of total war?

Just the ordinary people of Great Britain. All—all of them. Young and old. Men and women. Two out of every three men and women between the ages of 14 and 65 are doing full-time war work. The remaining third are housewives with young children, part-time workers, workers engaged in some trade which though not classified as vital war work, is necessary to keep the population alive and working. Children are busy with war savings and salvage; the old have returned to their former tasks to release the able-bodied. Women—well! Women pack parachutes, fire anti-aircraft guns, drive cranes, fill ordnance fuses, hammer home ship rivets, cope with aeroplane wings, make and test precision instruments. They are porters, bus conductors, clerks, army cooks, radio locators, electric welders.

Then all these workers after their daily work usually do some extra war work as a "hobby"—Fire-watching, civil defence, canteens, blood transfusion, Home Guard. Just ordinary citizens of Great Britain, all of them.

AT WAR WITH WHOM?

(*The Observer*).

ARE we at war with Nazism only, or are we at war with Germany? Strange to say, the question has never been squarely answered. After nearly three years of most bloody and perilous war, there are still the two well-known schools of thought in this country, hotly discussing against whom we are waging war.

There is a strange touch of unreality now about the school which keeps repeatiug the saying of the early days of the war—that we are fighting Hitlerism only and "have no quarrel with the German people". True, the notion that the war is a kind of intervention on our part in an underground German civil war between Nazis and German democrats, has its appeal. But the trouble about this notion is that this German civil war is non-existent; whatever there was of it ended in 1933, and our intervention has come ten years too late. The Germans of the early 'forties have not fought like a people dragged into war against their will. Whether Nazis or

not, they have fought with the utmost vigour and determination, and when to-day, for the first time, signs of unrest and even of sabotage are appearing in Germany, it is not because the Germans have been led to war, but because they begin to realise that they are being led to defeat. We may take it that there are a good many Germans who would like to get rid of the Nazi régime: but the majority even of these German anti-Nazis, when faced with the choice of victory under Hitler or riddance of Hitler through national defeat, obviously prefer the former. No, whether we like it or not, we ought to realise by now that we are at war not only with a few million Nazis, but with all the power of the German nation, eighty million strong.

WAR ON THE GERMANS?

But the difference is this: our policy towards Nazism is clear, whereas our policy towards Germany is not. We know exactly why we are at war with the Nazis and what we intend to do with them. We are far from having equally exact ideas with regard to Germany. Nazism we want to wipe out and destroy root and branch. This is possible, and we shall achieve it as soon as we provide a better solution for the problems of the mass-age than the crude and barbarous prescription of Nazidom. We do not want to wipe out the German nation; it is neither possible nor desirable. We want, after victory, to come to an enduring, genuine, and constructive peace with Germany.

It is at this point that the other school of thought (the one conveniently called "Vansittartist"—we cannot go into the delicate question here whether or not this term truly reflects Lord Vansittart's real views) leads us in a wrong direction. This school is quite right when it asserts that we are at war with the Germans, and not only with the Nazis. But it is wrong when it goes on to claim that we are at war with the Germans because they are Nazis. This is a false and dangerous simplification. One only needs to read Hitler's latest speech to see that very many Germans are not Nazis. The trouble is that they are making war on their neighbours and on us very vigorously all the same.

EUROPE AT STAKE.

This school, in fact, mixes up two different aspects of the war, while the other school ignores one of the two. From the social and religious standpoint it is certainly a war against the Nazis only; if the war were being waged solely over the question whether human dignity, individual freedom, and worship of God should or should not be preserved, we might well find the majority of Germans on our side. But the war has a purely international aspect as well. It is being waged over the question whether Germany—Nazi or not— shall or shall not dominate Europe. And this is a question we have to fight out with practically every German, if need be to the death. That the Germans want to

dominate Europe does not in itself stigmatise them as butcherbirds, nor as a brazen horde; nor are they for this reason in need of thirty years re-education at our hands after the war. We did not re-educate the French, Swedes, or Spaniards, who had the same ambition before them. The Germans, in their repeated national bid for mastery over Europe, have simply to be resisted and forcefully led back to their proper place in the European family.

THE REAL ISSUE.

This is the real quarrel we have with the German people, and it is no use ignoring it in our propaganda to Germany. It is not good propaganda simply to talk to the Germans as if we had no quarrel with them. They know well enough that we have. It is useless to talk as if the overthrow of the Nazis and the reintroduction of democratic government in Germany would settle everything. They are aware that this is not so. It is no good shirking the issue. It is not just the question whether the Germans are to retain their present tyrannical Nazi-régime or whether they are to be bombed and beaten into freedom and democracy. *The issue is whether Europe is to become German or whether Germany is to become European.* We need not hesitate about putting this issue plainly before the Germans. It may not flatter them; but then this is not the task of our German propaganda. Moreover, it contains a call to a revolution much deeper than the superficial donning of democratic trappings in 1919. At the same time, it contains the challenge of their own great past. There is a European róle awaiting for a reconstituted Germany—at once more congenial and more honourable than the part of the tyrant of Europe she has been trying to play for the last seventy years.

MERCHANT FLEET OF THE AIR

FIGHTING THE U-BOAT MENACE

By an Air correspondent.

(*The Observer*).

More than one writer in THE OBSERVER last week rightly called attention to the seriousness of our merchant shipping losses. It would be foolish not to face the fact that they represent one of the chief dangers confronting this country, for no matter how well our Army, Navy, and Air Force may do, if our shipping losses became so severe that we could not import adequate food supplies it would be only a matter of time before we should have to admit defeat.

German U-boats are now operating far and wide. To act as their "eyes" and also to help them in their task of destruction are considerable numbers of Focke-Wulf Condor and Kurier long-range bombers. Together, they have met with what is for every man, woman, and child in this country a serious measure of success.

Though many submarines have been sent to the bottom, and a number of Focke-Wulfs have been shot down, there is no reason to suppose that they will not continue to sink our ships, even if improved defence methods reduce the losses somewhat. This is not only menacing from the point of view of food supplies but of getting reinforcements, stores, and equipment to this country and to the distant theatres of war.

AN ALTERNATIVE.

An alternative method must be employed. The only practicable alternative is a large fleet of transport aircraft with tremendous carrying capacity. They would have to be given long range, so as to be capable of crossing the Atlantic non-stop or reaching the Middle East in one hop. Into these machines could be stacked suitable articles of food, spare parts for tanks and aircraft, etc., and even complete fighter machines. The Italians already do this, so there is no reason why we should not be able to do so.

If such aircraft were provided now they would not only relieve the pressure on our overworked shipping space but would help to solve a difficult post-war problem. Unless Britain is to be left behind as a commercial air Power, no time must be lost in re-establishing our external air lines, and these transport machines could easily and quickly be converted for carrying passengers, freight, and mails.

Nor must we forget the importance of our export trade. As a nation we live by selling our products abroad, and if we cannot export, owing to lack of shipping, then we must inevitably sink to the position of a second-rate Power and the population would have the unpleasant experience of accustoming itself to a lower standard of living.

SHOWING THE FLAG.

Such transport aircraft as I have advocated could act as our channels for transporting goods abroad. They would also be able to "show the British flag" in distant countries, giving them confidence in our ability to conduct business as we did before the war. By employing aircraft instead of ships we could deliver goods more promptly and probably in better condition, for they would not have to be "humped" from ship to train and from one train to another before reaching their destination.

The demands of war—or, in the case of neutral countries, wise precaution against possible Axis aggression—have created a chain of great aerodromes all round the world. When peace comes again there is hardly a country which will not have suitable airports for the biggest transport aircraft.

But though it is well to think ahead, the pressing problem at the moment is to ensure our supplies of food and *matériel* from abroad. The provision of a merchant fleet of transport aircraft is a pressing matter, and in designing and building them the authorities should have an eye to their use for commercial purposes in the immediate post-war years.

Dr. EVATT.

A stocky, thick-set, square headed young men, rather careless in his dress, but with complete self-confidence, battled and fenced for many days with a bench of five High Court Judges in the stifling heat of an Australian summer. He was opposing the deportation of two Trade Union leaders, Walsh and Johnson, under an order issued by the Bruce-Page Government. The young lawyer was H. V. Evatt, and by a piece of brilliant advocacy he convinced the court that the deportation was unconstitutional. The men were freed. Evatt became recognised as one of the first three lawyers in Australia. That was seventeen years ago. To-day, Evatt is Attorney-General and Minister for External Affairs in the Australian Labour Government, Mr. Bruce, the then Prime Minister, is the Austrlian High Commissioner in London, and Sir Earle Page the Australian representative in the British War Cabinet.

In his autobiography Lord Haldane tells a story of the Kaiser and Lord Moulton. The two had been talking, and the Kaiser then asked Lord Haldane: "What is this man? You say he is a Judge, but he seems to know everything." The same question may be asked of Evatt, for he was a judge of the Australian High Court for ten years, and is better informed on the public questions than most. At the university he won his degree with triple first class honours. His degree of Doctor of Laws is no honorary degree. It was conferred on him for a brilliant thesis on the British Constitution. He was appointed to the High Court at the early age of thirty-six. At a critical stage in this war he resigned from the bench and won a seat for Labour in the Commonwealth Parliament. Finally, when largely at his instigation and owing to his influence the Government was defeated, he went into the Labour Cabinet. He has already been to Washington on a special mission, and is now in London for the same purpose. Lawyer, judge, Cabinet Minister, diplomat—successful in all these roles, and only forty-eight.

For all his brilliance Evatt is one of the people. He was born in a coal mining town. In appearance and in other ways he may be thought crude and untidy. Like Mr. Winant, he is unconventional and without ceremony. But beneath it all there is real determination, great skill as a negotiator, and added to it some thing of the native shrewdness of a peasant. He was educated at a public school—not " public " in the English sense, but in the Australian sense, that is to say a school for the public—a State school. He is no orator, and not even a very attractive speaker; but his speeches are full of meat, and are delivered directly and without any embellishments. He has always been the advocate of the oppressed. He has mixed a lot with the working class people in Australia. He is the champion of causes which have yet to win the field.

As a lawer turned a politician, he invites comparison with Sir Stafford Cripps. He lacks both the charm, the personal attraction, and the capacity for getting on with people which Cripps has. On the other hand, he has more natural political sense than Cripps, and his feet are closer to the ground. Cripps has never mixed with the working classes as one of them. Evatt can, and has, because of his origins and his education, and his intimate association with the Unions. Like Cripps, Evatt is obviously a socialist intellectual. He is, in fact, a friend of such left-wing thinkers as Justice Felix Frankfurter in the United States and Professor Harold Laski here. Like Cripps, Evatt is the intellctual leader of the Left Wing Movement in his country, but unlike him, he has a party backing. Solidly entrenched both in the political and industrial sections of the Australian Labour Movement, he has an assured political future in a world which, he firmly believes, belongs to the people.

SHANGHAI FADING UNDER JAPANESE RULE.

" Shanghai, which was once one of the world's great cities, is slowly taking on the appearance of a down-at-the-heel country village as a result of its six months experience of Japan's so-called co-prosperity and co-existence sphere", writes Frederick Opper, *Christian Science Monitor* correspondent, from Lourenco Marques. He states:

" Shanghai is now drab and uncomfortable. The Settlement busses do not operate any more; Automobiles are not seen, since the Japanese promptly commandeered all save those belonging to a few doctors, Axis diplomats, and ether favoured ' co-operators '

" Important intersections are guarded by barbed-wire barricades, because the Japanese fear that Chungking might be inspired to acts of resistance. This fear has also resulted in the establishment of Chinese civilian street guards. Every Chinese male is forced to serve as a street guard once a week,

"Despite such efforts and precautions, sabotage, assassinations and bombings are frequent. As a result, the barbed-wire barricades have been enlarged to enclose several blocks in the vicinities where such incidents have occurred. In these areas, the residents are not allowed to move about for days at a time.

"The scarcity of rice in Shanghai has resulted in long queues of people standing on the streets for most of the day. An audience at the largest cinema house recently hissed a picture of Wang Ching-Wei, President of the puppet Chinese Republic in Shanghai. Lights were immediately flashed on in the cinema house, and a Japanese official demanded an explanation. One spectator asserted that the high price of rice brought on the audience's reaction to the picture. The Japanese ordered the theatre to be cleared out at once."

THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW.

THE MAJLIS.

In Turkey and Iran the Chief Representative Assembly of the Nation is called "Majlis." Elected by their respective peoples the members constitute the National Parliament.

The Turks and the Iranians, however, spell the word "*Majlis*" in different ways. When Turkey under the guidance of Ataturk changed over from the Arabic to the Roman script, it adopted the principle of phonetics. In keeping with this principle, the Turks spell Majlis "Meclis"

To convey in English the correct Iranian pronunciation of the word it must be spelt "*Mejlis*". In India the word is common parlance in Urdu and is usually pronounced "*Majlis*". But whether it be written *Meclis*, *Mejlis* or *Majlis*, it means the same thing—assembly or gathering.

PROGRAMME OF LECTURES

OF THE

Pudukkottai State National War Front Bureau.

1942— **LECTURE CXIII**—(*Batch 5*).

September	...19, Saturday ...	Town Hall	...	6.30 p. m.
	20, Sunday ...	Tiruvarangulam	...	7.00 p. m.
		Vamban	...	7.30 p. m.
	21, Monday ...	Pichchittanpatti	...	7.00 p. m.
		Tulaiyanur	...	7.00 p. m.
		Malaikkudippatti	...	7.30 p. m.
	22, Tuesday ...	College (A) English	...	10.15 a. m.
		Vellanur	...	7.00 p. m.
		Sembattur	...	7.30 p. m.
	23, Wednesday.	C. S. M. High School	...	10.00 a. m.
		Rani's High School	...	10.15 a. m.
		College Tamil (Branch School)		10.15 a. m.
		Kulavoippatti	...	7.00 p. m.
		Kilaiyur (South)	...	7.30 p. m.
	24, Thursday...	Pallivasal	...	7.00 p. m.
		Pillamangalam	...	7.30 p. m.
	25, Friday ...	Puliyur	...	7.00 p. m.
		Kannangudi	...	7.30 p. m.

LECTURE CXIV—(*Batch 1*).

	26, Saturday ...	Town Hall	...	6.45 p. m.
	27, Sunday ...	Puvarasakudi	...	7.00 p. m.
		Venkatakulam	...	7.30 p. m.
	28, Monday ...	Tirumayyam	...	7.00 p. m.
		Melur	...	7.30 p. m.
	29, Tuesday ...	College (A) English	...	10.15 a. m.
		Perungalur	...	7.00 p. m.
		Adanakkottai	...	7.30 p. m.
	30, Wednesday.	C. S. M. High School	...	10.00 a. m.
		Rani's High School	...	10.15 a. m.
		College Tamil (Branch School.)		10.15 a. m.
		Arimalam	...	7.00 p. m.
		Kilanilaikkottai	...	7.30 p. m.
October	... 1, Thursday ...	Malampatti	...	7.00 p. m.
		Parambur	...	7.30 p. m.
	2, Friday ...	P. Puduppatti	...	7.00 p. m.
		Vendampatti	...	7.30 p. m.

THE FOLLOWING PLACES WILL BE VISITED BY THE ADVERTISING PARTY OF THE NATIONAL WAR FRONT BUREAU FROM 4 P. M. TO 5 P. M. ON THE DAYS NOTED BELOW. THE STATE BAND WILL PLAY; POSTERS WILL BE EXHIBITED; AND HAND-BILLS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED AND EXPLAINED.

Saturday	...	19— 9—42	...	Tirumayyam.
Sunday	...	20— 9—42	...	Maruthankoneviduthi
Monday	...	21— 9—42	...	Arimalam.
Tuesday	...	22— 9—42	...	Kudumiyamalai.
Thursday	...	24— 9—42	...	Kilanilai.
Friday	...	25— 9—42	...	Pappapatti.
Saturday	...	26— 9—42	...	Tirumayyam.
Sunday	...	27— 9—42	...	Tittanviduthi.
Monday	...	28— 9—42	...	Mullankurichchi.
Tuesday	...	29— 9—42	...	Parambur.
Wednesday	...	30— 9—42	...	Kilanilai Puduppatti.
Thursday	...	1—10—42	...	Kulipirai.
Friday	...	2—10—42	...	Pudukkottai.

Sri Brihadamba State Press, Pudukkottai. 1,000—20-9-42.